

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 03851 271905Z

64

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 SAM-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 AF-06

ARA-10 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

OPIC-06 /124 W

----- 103562

R 271824Z AUG 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1561

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLAS USUN 3851

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, PT, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE TIMOR

THE UN SECRETARIAT IN DOCUMENT A/10209:S/11813 OF
25 AUGUST 1975 HAS CIRCULATED A LETTER OF AUGUST 23
TO UNSYG WALDHEIM FROM PORTUGAL'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS RUIVO ABOUT THE SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR.

THE TEXT OF THE DOCUMENT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1975 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I HAVE THE HONOUR, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OF MY GOVERNMENT, TO
ENCLOSE HEREWITH A LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1975, ADDRESSED
TO YOUR EXCELLENCY BY MR. MARIO RUIVO, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 03851 271905Z

I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOUR EXCELLENCY WOULD DIRECT THAT

THIS LETTER BE CIRCULATED AS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, UNDER ITEMS 23 AND 89 OF ITS PROVISIONAL AGENDA, AND OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

(SIGNED) ANTONIO DA COSTA LOBO DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I. OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ANNEX

LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1975 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. SUBSEQUENT TO THE LETTER I ADDRESSED TO YOUR EXCELLENCY ON 22 AUGUST 1975 (A/10208), THE SITUATION IN TIMOR HAS DETERIORATED TO AN EVEN GRAVER EXTENT.

2. THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES, TOGETHER WITH THOSE OF AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA, MEANWHILE SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING THE MINIMUM AND INDISPENSABLE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION NECESSARY IN ORDER TO COMMENCE EVACUATION OF 1,400 PEOPLE CONCENTRATED IN THE AREA OF THE PORT OF DILI.

3. THIS EVACUATION BEGAN TODAY, 23 AUGUST, AT 0500 HOURS GMT, RESULTING IN THE EMBARKATION OF A FEW HUNDRED PEOPLE. THE EMBARKATION OPERATION PROCEEDED NORMALLY WITH THE USE OF BARGES THAT TRANSPORTED THE EVACUEES FROM LAND TO THE NORWEGIAN SHIP "LLOYD BEKKE", WHICH WAS LOCATED AT A DISTANCE FROM THE PORT OF DILI FOR REASONS OF SECURITY.

4. HOWEVER, AS OF 0740 HOURS GMT, THESE BOARDING OPERATIONS WERE HAMPERED BECAUSE ONE OF THE POLITICAL FACTIONS INVOLVED IN THE ARMED CONFLICT UNDER WAY - FRETILIN - IMPOSED DIFFICULTIES AND OFFERED RESISTANCE TO THE OPERATION, INCLUDING BOMBARDMENT WITH MORTARS OF THE PORT AREA. AT THE SAME TIME,

CONDITIONS IN THE CAPITAL BECAME CHAOTIC, WITH GENERALIZED PANIC SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE POPULATION AS A RESULT OF THE MURDER OF HUNDREDS OF INHABITANTS, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 03851 271905Z

5. ASIDE FROM THE RISK FACED BY PEOPLE STILL WAITING TO BE EVACUATED FROM DILI, WE ARE AWARE THAT APPROXIMATELY 50 NATIONALS AND FOREIGNERS ARE BEING HELD IN THE INTERIOR AS HOSTAGES.

6. IN VIEW OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOVERNOR OF TIMOR SENT A MESSAGE, CONSTITUTING AN SOS, ASKING FOR THE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION OF INTERNATIONAL FORCES, DESIGNATED FROM ONE OR

MORE COUNTRIES IN THE AREA, SO AS TO PUT AN END TO THE ABOVE-
MENTIONED SITUATION.

7. GIVEN THE PRECEDING, THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT URGES
YOUR EXCELLENCY TO EXERT ALL YOUR INFLUENCE WITH THE INTERNA-
TIONAL COMMUNITY SO AS TO AVOID A FURTHER LOSS OF LIFE
AND TO ENABLE THE RESUMPTION OF HUMANITARIAN EVACUATION
OPERATIONS.

8. THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT SHALL CONTINUE DIRECT CONTACTS
WITH YOUR EXCELLENCY IN ORDER TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF FURTHER
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SITUATION. IF A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION
BETWEEN THE CONFLICTING PARTIES IS NOT FOUND, INTERNATIONAL
ACTION MAY BECOME NECESSARY, FOR WHICH THE GOOD OFFICES OF
YOUR EXCELLENCY ARE INDISPENSABLE.

(SIGNED) MARIO RUIVO
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL UNQUOTE
MOYNIHAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, TEXT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, EVACUATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN03851
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750297-0466
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750811/aaaaajrl.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE TIMOR THE UN SECRETARIAT IN DOCUMENT A/10209:S/11813 OF
TAGS: PFOR, PT, PO, UN, (WALDHEIM, KURT), (RUIVO, MARIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006